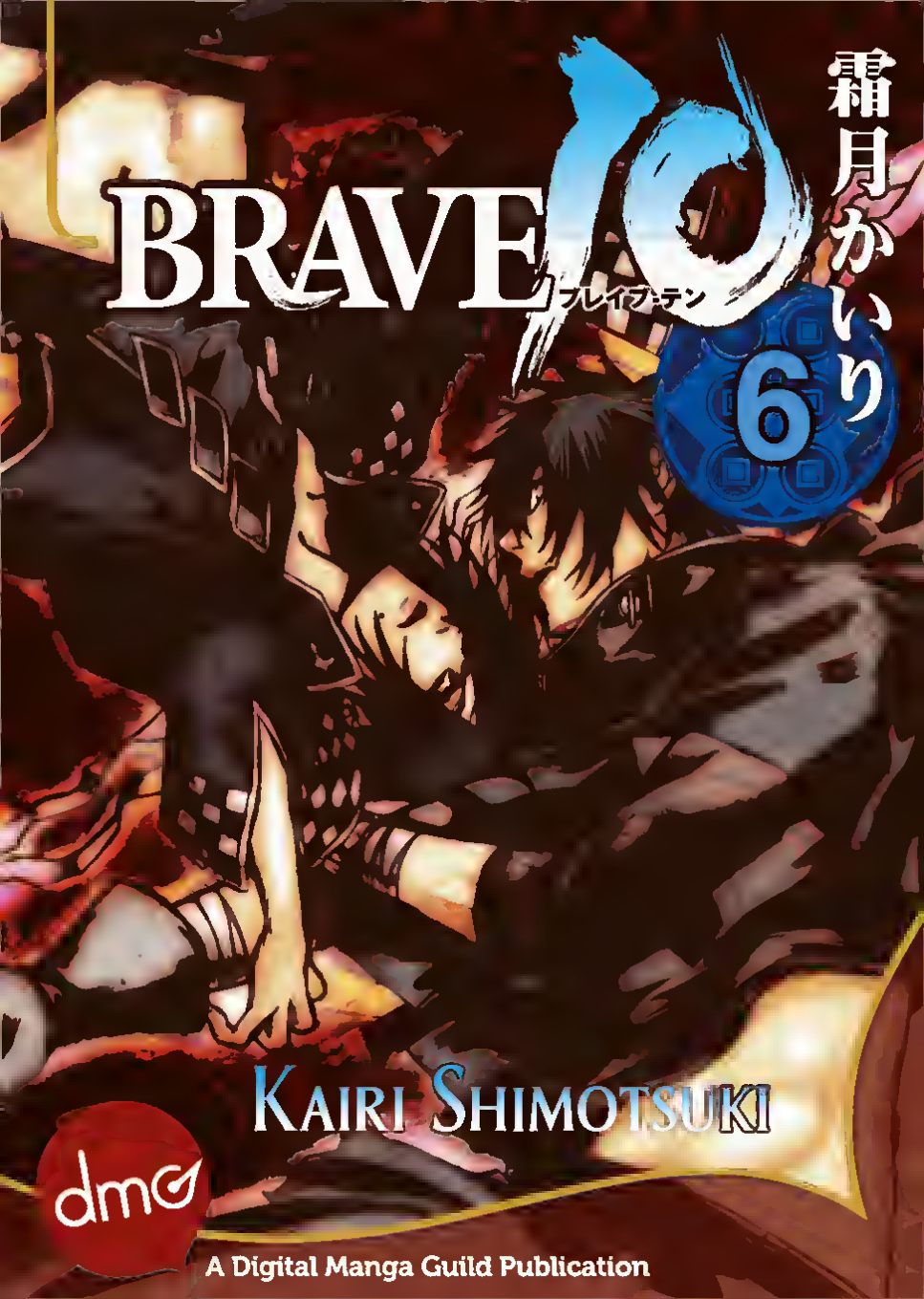
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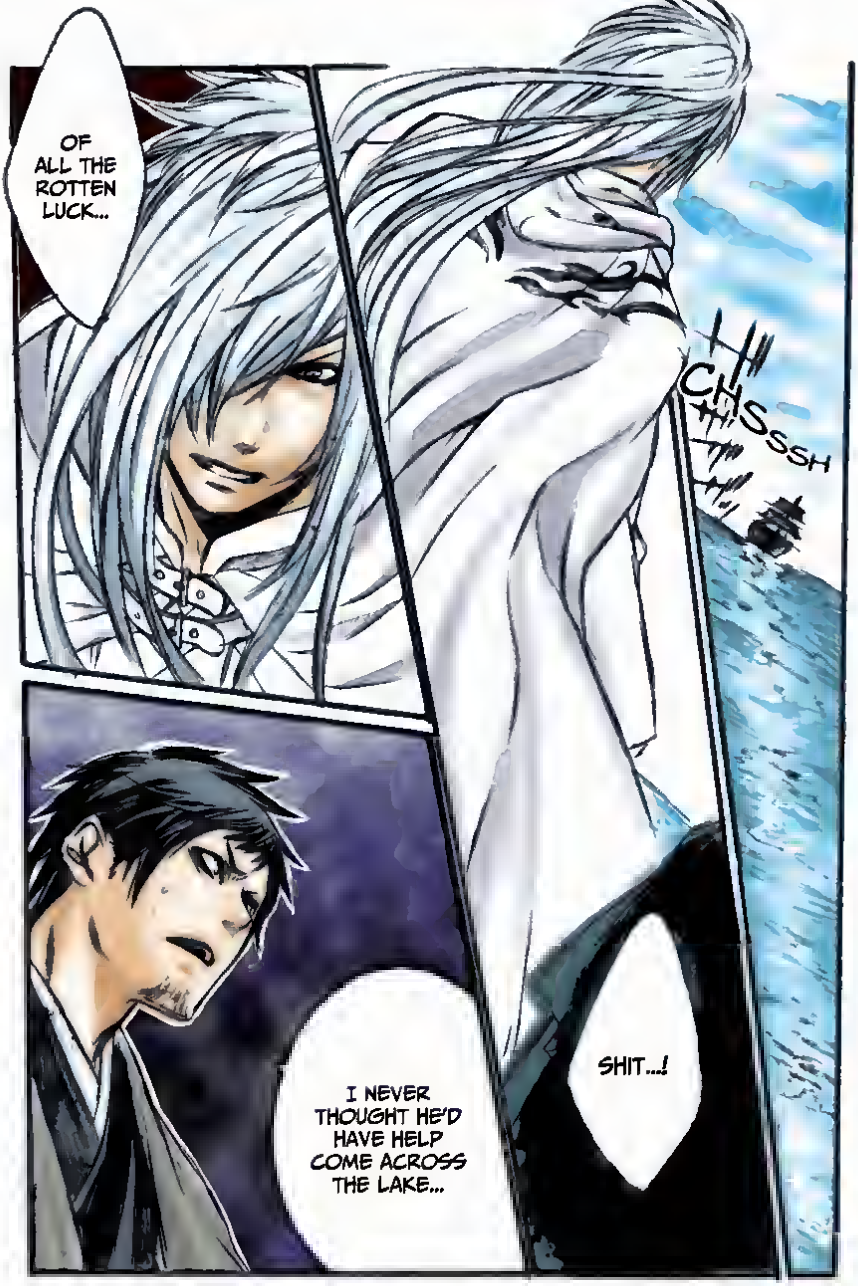
OF ALL THE ROTTEN LUCK...
CHSSSH
SHIT...!
I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D HAVE HELP COME ACROSS THE LAKE...

CONTENTS

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THUNK
SHAAA
W–
WE'RE SAFE...
SO THEN, WHAT'S ALL THIS?
THESE GUYS LOOK LIKE ODDBALLS ON TOUR!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT THANKS.
YOUR THANKS DON'T MAKE ME VERY HAPPY, PAL.
OH!
MY NOSE STINGS
HAHHH.
HELL OF A BUNCH TO BRING ON-BOARD.

LOOM
YOU'VE GOT A TATTOO ON YOUR EYE?! NICE.
WHATTA YOU WANT?!
HOTTIE SPOTTED!
AGH?!
WHOA, A STRONG-WILLED WOMAN! YOU'D MAKE A GREAT PIRATE!
HAVE YOU GOT A SCREW LOOSE, ASS-HOLE?!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKIN' TO?! I'LL KILL YOU!!
I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE!
CARE TO COME LIVE WITH ME ON THIS SHIP?
JINPACHI!!
CHFF
HEHEHE
AS FAR AS WE KNOW.
HUH?! IS THIS CHICK A MAN?!
WHAT PART OF ME LOOKS LIKE A WOMAN?!
I'M A MAN!!

THAT'S NO WAY TO SPEAK TO LORD YUKIMURA!!
BE MORE POLITE!!

KAKEI!!
WA
THANK
I SEE YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, GUYS!
WE'D BE DEAD IF NOT FOR YOU, KAKEI!
SHFF
NO. YOU HAVE HIM TO THANK, NOT ME.
BUT I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE, LORD YUKIMURA.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY,
...
KAKEI
...

I'M JINPACHI NEZU!
HAHHH!
BOOM!
WHAT I LIKE IS DRINKING AND WOMEN!!
WHAT I LOVE IS MY SHIP!!
"ALL YOU NEED IN LIFE IS FUN," THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE!
B-
B-
B-
BOOM!

ANOTHER...
WEIRDO...
HEYYYY!! I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!
NEVER JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER.
H-HEY, I SAID TO SPEAK POLITELY!!
STARE
I BITE MY TONGUE WHEN I TRY TO TALK ALL HUMBLE!
JUZO! WHEN WE'RE ON THIS SHIP, I CALL THE SHOTS!
TCH!
I ONLY BOTHERED TO SAVE 'EM 'CAUSE YOU SAID THERE WAS A HOT LADY.
LOOKS LIKE I DID IT FOR NOTHING!
UM...
HELLO, I'M A LADY!

PEEVE
WHO'D WANNA BE WITH YOU, WITH YOUR PUG NOSE AND FLAT CHEST?!
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, KIDDO!!
L-
LISTEN HERE, YOU!!
GRAHHH!
WHERE'S THAT "GOLDEN-HAIRED HUGE-BREASTED FOREIGN BEAUTY," JUZO?!
S-SHE DOES EXIST... IN UEDA...
FLAT CHEST... PUG NOSE...
WHOM
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ISANAMI!!

W-WE'RE ON A SHIP, STUPID!!
WHAM

YOU DON'T GET TO DO...
BAM
KRRRN
WHATEVER YOU WANT, ON MY SHIP.
...
YOUNG MASTER! STAND BACK!
...!!
HNN!!

DUMB-ASS!
ZZZT
HE STOPPED SEIKAI'S IRON CLUB BARE-HANDED...?!
THIS GUY'S A BEAST!
HYN!
WHUMP
!!

BOOM
ZZZT
YOU'RE NOTHIN' BUT AN OVER-GROWN CHILD,
AND IT'S BEDDY-BYE TIME!
GAH...!
AH!

BIG BROTHER!!
JINPACHI!
WHOOSH
SEIKAI!!
HE WANTS TO FREAK OUT ABOARD MY SHIP? DREAM ON!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE SAID THEY CAN STAY ONBOARD, ANYWAY.
WH-WHAT DO YOU...?
JUZO, YOU AND I ARE SWORN BROTHERS,
BUT I'VE GOT NO OBLIGATION TO THESE PEOPLE!

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
CHIFF
I'M GONNA TEST WHETHER YOU GUYS'RE WORTHY OF SAILIN' ON THIS SHIP OR NOT!
...!
CHIK!

ACT.31 JINPACHI'S WAY / BORDERLESS

HEH!
...
HE TOOK DOWN SEIKAI IN ONE SHOT...
CHAKT
UNNN
GRAB
KUH!
THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME, BOY?
SH

WOK
SPLASH
THAT'S COLD!!
I KNOW THAT SCENT...
IT'S SAKE!
HUH?!
HEH HEH HEH. WHAT'D YOU THINK IT WAS?

FIGHTING WITH SWORDS ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO COMPETE, IS IT?
IF YOU CAN DOWN ALL OF THIS SAKE,
WHUMK
WHUMK
WHUMK
WHUMK
I'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH YOU STAYIN' ONBOARD.

GREAT!!
I'M IN!!
ARE YOU A MORON?!
LOOK AT IT ALL! IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE GONNA GET COMPLETELY SMASHED!!
IT HAS TO BE DONE...
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR YOU TO BE SHOWIN' OFF!!
SPARKLE
IT'S FIVE CASKS!
I'VE ONLY EVER HAD DRINK OFFERINGS...
I'VE NEVER HAD ANY!
I WONDER IF IT TASTES GOOD..
WOW, I'M SO NERVOUS!
SEE?! I JUST KNOW THINGS ARE GONNA GET OUT OF HAND!!
C'MON, LET'S DRIIIINK!
HIC!
WHEEE! YOU'RE CHICKENIN' OUT, SAIZOOO.
YOHHH
TOO LATE, HUH?

...HAHH.
HAH!
...HN!
...I NOT GO EASY.
YOU'RE... MORE INTENSE THAN YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'D BE.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD BE ROUGH.
I MIGHT BREAK, YOU KNOW.

YOU KNOW YOU ENJOY.
OH, YOU MEAN YOU COULD TELL?
P--
PUT BREASTS AWAY!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO JOSTLED THEM SO MUCH, SASUKE.
ROLL
SO INNOCENT
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS GET A LITTLE EXER-CISE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SO SERIOUS ABOUT IT.
CAN'T HELP, IN SPARRING!!
WAS YOUR IDEA!!
MAYBE YOU'D GET IT IF WE SLEPT TOGETHER AT LEAST ONCE.

...I WONDER HOW LORD YUKIMURA AND THE OTHERS ARE DOING.
I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T GET IN TROUBLE FOR TRYING ANYTHING WITH THOSE KYOTO WOMEN.
...
HMHMM.
AND THEN KAMANO-SUKE AND EVEN SEIKAI WENT OFF, TOO...
THE ESTATE'S NOT HEAVILY GUARDED...
WHAT'LL WE DO IF SOME-THING HAPPENS?

NOTHING HAPPEN.
I HERE.
BESIDES,
HE DOESN'T SHAKE EASILY...
YOU HERE, TOO.
WELL THEN.
OH...

I'M HONORED.
GOOD STUFF!!
BU-HAHHH!
GOOD, HAVE SOME MORE!
YOU GOT IT!
...
AH HA HA HA!

WOW! YOU CAN REALLY PUT IT AWAY!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE SEEN ANYONE MAKE DRINKING SO MUCH FUN.
WELL HEY, GOOD SAKE MAKES EVERYTHING BETTER.
YOUR ATTENDANT'S PRETTY GOOD, TOO.. AND HE'S GOT A PRETTY FACE!
...
DRUNK
SAKE'S NICE AND ALL,
BUT I'M HUNGRY, TOOOO.
HIC
DRUNK
KHAAAA
SNOZZZ..
GOLP
HERE! WHY NOT HAVE SOME MORE, BEAUTY?!
THANKS ...
TNK TNK
SO, SAIZO. YOU DRINKING?!

...KAKEI.
THE INVINCIBLE NINJA.
SAKE WON'T GET YOU DRUNK.
OF COURSE NOT.
I'VE GOT A RESISTANCE TO SAKE AND POISON.
SPEAKING OF POISON,
THINGS WERE ROUGH AFTER YOU LEFT.
KOLP
THERE WAS WHAT AMOUNTED TO A POISON ATTACK ON UEDA CASTLE
OTHER STUFF HAPPENED, TOO..
I'M SURE THINGS WERE OKAY, SINCE YOU GUYS WERE THERE.
WELL YEAH, THAT'S TRUE.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING ON A SHIP, THOUGH?
HAS MR. UPSTANDING DECIDED TO BECOME A PIRATE INSTEAD OF COMING BACK TO UEDA?
NEVER! WHAT A THING TO SAY!
I'VE BEEN GOING AROUND TO DIFFERENT PROVINCES, BROADENING MY HORIZONS AND SEARCHING FOR A NEW GUN.
...HUH?
HMM?
WHAT'S THIS STUFF? IT'S TASTY!
FOREIGN-MADE SAKE, APPARENTLY.
AT ONE POINT, I HEARD A PIRATED NAMED NEZU HAD SOME FOREIGN-MADE GUNS.
ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER, AND I FINALLY MANAGED TO SLIP ONBOARD HERE.
OF COURSE, HE WASN'T JUST GOING TO HAND OVER A GUN.
SO WHAT THEN?
THEN, THIS COMPETITION HAPPENED.
I HAD TO DRINK A BUNCH, TOO.

ONCE WE'D EMPTIED TWO CASKS, HE SAID WE WERE SWORN BROTHERS!
CHUG
THIS GUY CAN DRINK LIKE A FISH.
AND HE'S AS STUBBORNLY HONEST AS EVER!!
I'M WORKING ONBOARD HERE FOR A WHILE, TO PAY FOR IT!
NO, I CAN'T JUST ACCEPT IT FOR FREE!
THEN HE GENEROUSLY GAVE ME A GUN, TOO
SO WHY DIDN'T YOU COME BACK?
I TOOK A LOOK AT WHAT ALL THE NOISE ON THE SHORE WAS... AND IT CHILLED ME TO THE BONE.
WHAT THE ↗ THAT'S SAIZO!!
HNN?!
WELL, IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE ON THIS SHIP THAT WE'RE SAFE.

WE NEED TO LEAVE, NOW.
HEY!
GET BACK HERE!!
MY LORD!!
WHAT WAS THAT SMALL ARMY DOING CHASING YOU?
...ASK OLD MAN YUKIMURA, IF YOU WANT THE WHOLE STORY.
I TELL YOU,
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH YOU PROTECT SOMEONE.
HE ACTUALLY PROVOKED THOSE GUYS, EVEN IN THAT SITUATION.
I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE OLD MAN.
SHFF
YOU KNOW... YOU'VE GOTTEN SOFT.
HUH?
WHAT FUN STUFF ARE YOU GUYS TALKIN' ABOUT?!

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A GIRL, KAMANOSUKE.
WHA?!
TAKE A HIKE.
WHA?
LEMME JOIN IN, TOO.
C'MON, SAIZO! WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?
C'MON, SAIZOOO!
HUHHH?!
GLARE
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!! IT'S TIME WE CLEARED THIS UP!!
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
EVERY FUCKIN' ONE OF YOU TREATS ME LIKE A WOMAN!!
EVEN YOU, AND YOU'VE BEEN GONE LIKE FOREVER!
FWOOMP!!
I'M A—
MAN!!

OH!
OHHHH!
SURE...
TURN AROUND THIS WAY, KAMANOSUKE!
HEH! HOW 'BOUT THAT?!
UH... HEY, SORRY...
AH!
WUMP

S-SAIZO...
KEEP QUIET, YOU'RE DRUNK.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT!
HAW H. W HAW
TRMP
TRMP
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!
YOU TWO'VE GOTTEN VERY CLOSE SINCE I LAST SAW YOU, SAIZO.
I'M NOT SURE I KNOW YOU ANY MORE
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SAIZO?! LET ME SEE!!
THERE'S NOTHING THERE TO SEE, OLD MAN.
WHAT A DRAG!
TCH!
THAT COULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD SHOW, TOO!
HUH?!
DANCE!
IT'S WHAT HAPPENS AT DRINKING PARTIES!
WAT
!
VNN
ROKURO!

OHHHHH!!
Y-YOU'RE JOKING..
SAYS YOU.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME. I'D LIKE TO SEE IT.
OR WHAT?
ARE YOU SO DRUNK, YOU CAN'T MANAGE IT?
HMPH!
...FEH!
URG!
LEAVE THE DANCING TO MEEE!!

GREAT, EVERYBODY'S WASTED...
THERE'S NO STOPPING THEM, AT THIS POINT.
THUMP!
THE IZUMO KAGURA DANCE!
CLAP
WELL PLAYED, ISANAMI
YOU GO, SWEETIE!
RAH!
CLAP
YOUR DANCING IS SUPERB!
COME FEAST YOUR EYES!
WHEW
YEAHHH! NOW THIS PARTY'S STARTED!

HMM?
NO...
HAVE I GOT SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
JUZO TOLD ME ABOUT UEDA'S YOUNG LORD...
BUT YOU REALLY DON'T SEEM LIKE HIM.
!
YOU JUST LOOK LIKE A PLAYBOY, OUT WITH HIS PALS.
HAHA!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.
HEY, THANKS.
...
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO BACK THERE?
YOU DON'T HAVE THAT BIG-SHOT AIR ABOUT YOU.
SEE, YOU DIDN'T GET MAD...

WELL...
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.
YOU WERE SURROUNDED BY THOSE SOLDIERS.
NO WAY TO ESCAPE...
THERE WERE ONLY TWO PLACES YOU COULD GO, HEAVEN OR HELL.
SAY WHAT?! DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T HAVE A PLAN.
HMM..
I FIGURED SINCE THEY'RE WITH ME, SOMETHING WOULD WORK OUT...
OR ELSE, MAYBE, I'D COME ACROSS SOME NEW ENCOUNTER...

A GREAT MAN,
OR A GREAT FOOL?
WHAT ARE YOU...?
HMM!
...
BECAUSE I'M FREE.
WHY ARE YOU A "PIRATE"?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

I DON'T BELONG TO ANYBODY.
I'M MY OWN MASTER.
ON LAND, THERE'S THESE DAMN INVISIBLE LINES THAT TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT BELONGS TO WHO.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE THERE YOU'RE SOMEBODY'S PROPERTY, TOO.
IF YOU WANNA LIVE FOR FUN AND DRINK,
A PIRATE'S LIFE IS THE BEST.
PAY YOUR LAND TAXES.
COME HELP FIGHT WHEN THERE'S WAR...
IT'S ENOUGH TO CHOKE A MAN TO DEATH.

AS LONG AS I'M ON THE VAST SEA AND UNDER THE ENDLESS SKY, I CAN REMAIN FREE.
YOU DON'T LIKE BEING TIED DOWN?
BUT WHEREVER THEY ARE, THE BOUND ARE BOUND,
AND THE FREE ARE FREE...
HUHN?
YEAH, NO THANKS.

NO MATTER WHO YOU SERVE,
IF YOU LIVE WHERE AND HOW YOU WANT,
AND ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN WILL, THAT'S "FREEDOM."
NEVER BOUND DOWN.
THE HEART'S...
UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE POOR.
YOU PAY YOUR PEOPLE MONEY, RIGHT?
THIS, COMING FROM A YOUNG LORD WHO MAKES PEOPLE SERVE HIM?
MMM HMM HMM.
MY TERRITORY'S TINY, TOO. SINCE WE'RE DISCUSSING IT.
PLEASE, DON'T DAMAGE MY REPUTATION.

BUT EVEN SO,
EACH OF THEM ARE HERE...
OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.
CHOOM
HMM?
YOU'RE... A BAD ONE, YOU KNOW...

WHAT'S THAT?!
BLOOSH
AUGHHHH! IT'S *KANIBOZU!!
BRING US AROUND!! WE'VE GOT TO RUN!!
YOWWW! IT'S A HUGE CRAB!
CRABS DON'T GET THAT HUGE!!
IT'S THE LORD OF THE LAKE!! A MAN-EATING MONSTER!!
THAT LOOKS DELICIOUS.
*A MONSTER FROM JAPANESE FOLKLORE.

KRRRRRN
KRRRRRN
KRRRRRN
KRRRAK
KRRRAK
Y'KNOW, WE DON'T HAVE ANY SNACKS.
CAN'T WE EAT THAT THING?!
REALLY?!
YAY! SNACKS! SNACKS!!
OOOOSH
SAIZO! GO GET IT! ☆
TH-THAT'S CRAZY! YOU'LL DIE!!
RUN—
IF YOU INSIST...
CHING
I WAS GETTIN' HUNGRY ANYWAY.
HUH?!

WHOCK
THIS CRAB'S GOT A BAD TEMPER!!
KRRRRN
KRRRRN
TAKE THAT!!
FWOOM
SAIZO!
CHFF
YOU DON'T NEED TO HELP!
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TOO, YOUNG MASTER?
THIS THING LOOKS LIKE IT'S LOADED WITH MEAT!
SURE, I WOULD!
I'M HUNGRY!
CRAB
CRAAB
CRAAAB
CRAAAB

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
KIRI-GAKURE STYLE NINJA ART...
YOENZAN!!
WHOMP

THNK
COOK THIS UP WITH THAT LIGHTNING MOVE OF YOURS, PIRATE GUY.
YOU GUYS ARE OUTRAGEOUS.
BY ANY CHANCE, ARE YOU RATHER DRUNK, ROKURO?
IT REALLY IS, YOUNG MASTER.
THIS IS GOOD.
KRAK
KRAK
CAN'T WAIT!
OHH, SMELLS GOOD!
ME EITHER!
I LIKE YA!!
ZZZT

ACT.32 THE TRUE FACE OF ICE / THE FREEZING POINT

ALRIGHT, I'M GONNA BE AWAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE!
AYE, CAP'N!
TAKE CARE, BOSS!
I DON'T WANT YOU GUYS TO GET LAZY JUST BECAUSE I'M GONE.
WE'LL KEEP HER IN GOOD REPAIR!
BRING BACK SOUVENIRS!
YEAH, I'LL BE SURE TO!
GRRRLL!
...WHEN DID OLD YUKIMURA MANAGE TO CONVINCE HIM?
IS THAT PIRATE GUY GOING TO UEDA, TOO?
APPARENTLY.

IT'S SO STRANGE!
OUR GROUP SEEMS TO KEEP GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER!
BEN, AND NOW THE PIRATE GUY!
IT'S GOTTEN SOOO BUSY!
B-ARRRG
SPLAT
SPLAT
KAMANO-SUKE...
AND BIG BROTHER.
THAT'S NASTY
FIRST I MET YOU, SAIZO...
THEN EVERYONE AT UBDA.
HEH HEH HEH
THROB
THROB
THROB
IT HAS, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.
SHFF
MHMM.
SHE'S RIGHT.

THE BONDS BETWEEN PEOPLE TRULY ARE FASCINATING.
THAT WAS THE KAKEI WE ALL KNOW.
OH YEAH?
OH.
YUP! SURE WAS!

SO THEN,
LET'S GET BACK TO UEDA!
VERONICA'S GOING TOO?
OF COURSE.
WE ARE ONE BODY, ONE SOUL.

SHUFFFF
KREEEEE!
!
KREEEEE!
CHFF!

HEY, AREN'T WE AT UEDA CASTLE YET?
JUST A LITTLE FARTHER, BEN.
I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A CASTLE BEFORE!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT.
I LIKE HOW HANGOVERS KEEP HIM QUIET
HEH HEH HEH
THROB THROB
...
!
...MAN.
TALK ABOUT IMPATIENT.

...!
WHERE'D HE COME FROM?

MHMM.
THANKS FOR GUARDING THE PLACE, SASUKE.
LORD YUKIMURA!
GOOD SEE YOU SAFE.
W-WEL-COME.
STEAM
SASUKE, WE'RE HOME!
SCOOT
SHEESH! WHY DO YOU COP SUCH AN ATTITUDE WITH HIM?!
TCH!
A MONKEY WELCOMES US HOME?

WHO?!
LORD YUKIMURA GAVE HIM A JOB!
THIS BOY'S NAME IS BENMARU!
OH!
OH!
WHO SHE?!
HELLO THERE. NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS VERONICA.
SASUKE! WHERE'S ANASTASIA?
BA-THUMP
DON'T CALL ME THAT!
WE PICKED UP ANOTHER OLD MAN, TOO.
SEE.

ANA PATROLLING DOMAIN! BACK TONIGHT.
WHO'S THAT?
A SOUTHERN BARBARIAN?
ANAS TASIA?!
ALRIGHT...
THAT WOMAN YOU WANT TO MEET.
THEN LET'S REST UP TODAY,
AND SAVE THE MEET AND GREET FOR TOMORROW.
MEET AND GREET?
WHAT FOR?
SASUKE, SAIZO,
ROKURO, ANA, AND ISANAMI.
KAKEI, KAMANO-SUKE,
SEIKA! AND BEN-MARU.
AND FINALLY JINPACHI...
YOU'RE FINALLY ALL TOGETHER.

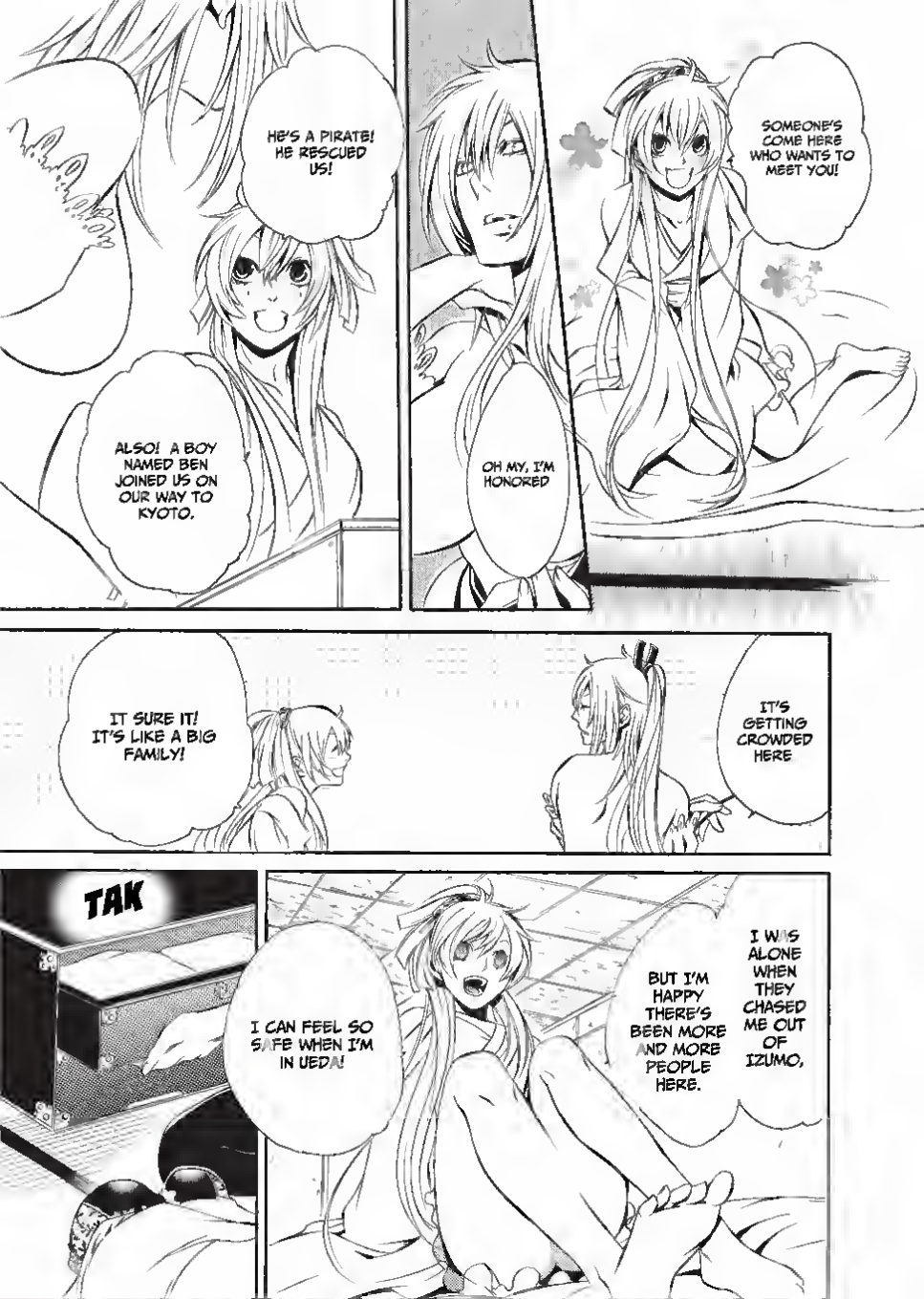
AS MANY BRAVES AS I HAVE FINGERS...
ON BOTH HANDS.

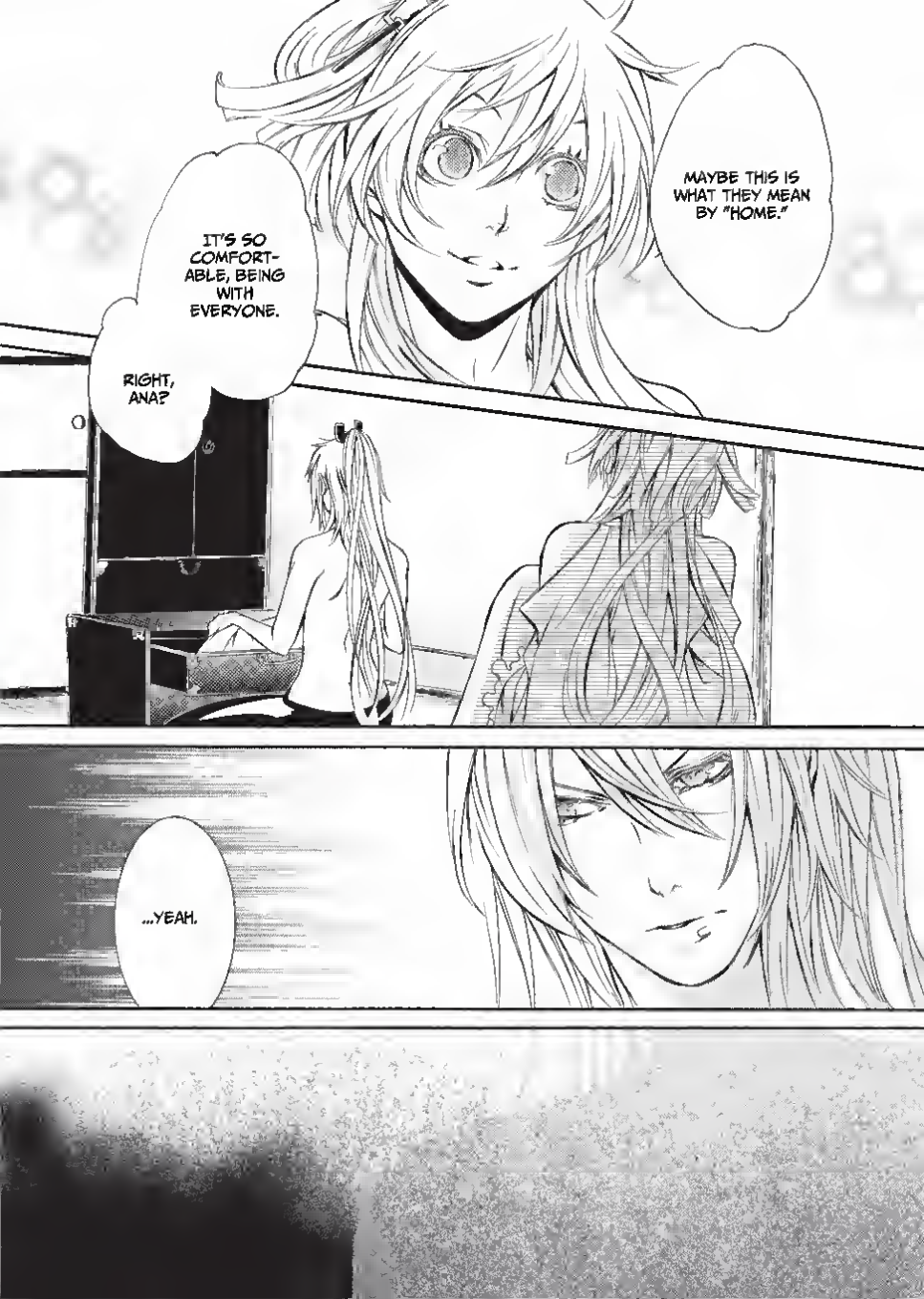
THE NUMBER OF FINGERS ON TWO HANDS... TEN PEOPLE... WHAT'S THAT NUMBER SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?

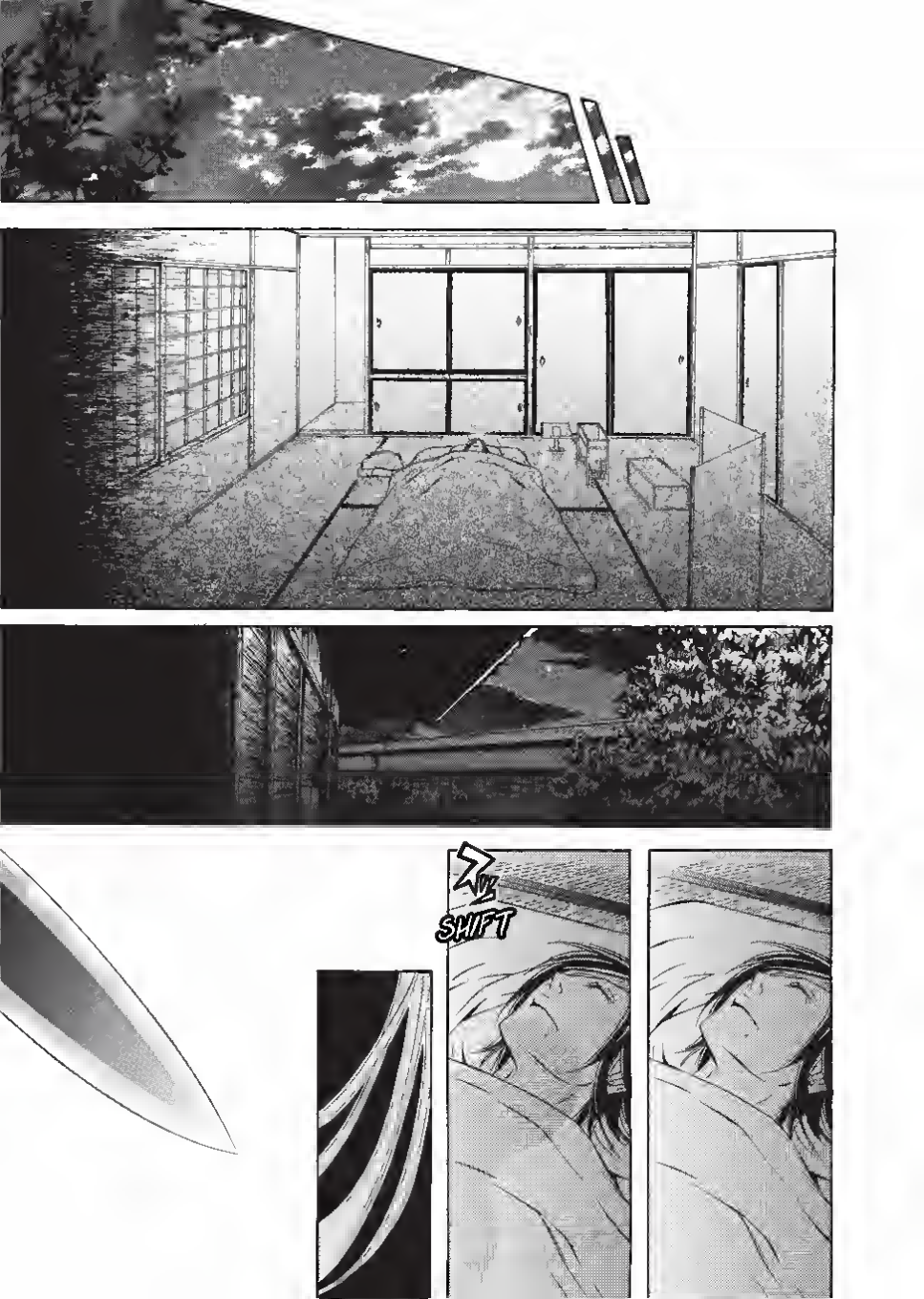
WELCOME HOME.
HOW WAS KYOTO?
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
ANA!
FLINCH
YOWW!
IT FEELS LIKE FOREVER SINCE IZZ SAW YOU LAST.
MHMM! THAT IT DOES.
OH.
WHAT?

I WASN'T ABLE TO BUY YOU A SOUVENIR.
...SORRY.
THAT'S TOO BAD.
AND I WAS HERE ALONE AFTER KAMANOSUKE AND SEIKAI TOOK OFF ON THEIR OWN. GUARDING UEDA WASN'T EASY, BEING SHORT-HANDED...
SORRY.
I'M REALLY SORRY!
STUFF HAPPENED, AND I RAN OUT OF TIME...
I'M SORRY.
...I DON'T FOR-GIVE YOU.

UNLESS YOU TELL ME FUN STORIES ABOUT THE TRIP.
OH, WHAT GOOD THING?
I'VE GOT SOMETHING GOOD TO TELL YOU, BUT IF YOU'RE MEAN, FORGET IT!
AHAHA. DID I SURPRISE YOU?
OH ANA, YOU'RE UNBELIEV-ABLE!
MEANIE!
BOUNCE
MHMM! OKAY, THEN I SHALL TELL YOU!
YES, I DO.
GLARE
YOU WANT TO KNOW ?


HE'S A PIRATE! HE RESCUED US!
ALSO! A BOY NAMED BEN JOINED US ON OUR WAY TO KYOTO.
OH MY, I'M HONORED
SOMEONE'S COME HERE WHO WANTS TO MEET YOU!
IT SURE IT! IT'S LIKE A BIG FAMILY!
IT'S GETTING CROWDED HERE
TAK
I CAN FEEL SO SAFE WHEN I'M IN UEDA!
BUT I'M HAPPY THERE'S BEEN MORE AND MORE PEOPLE HERE.
I WAS ALONE WHEN THEY CHASED ME OUT OF IZUMO,


MAYBE THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY "HOME."
IT'S SO COMFORT-ABLE, BEING WITH EVERYONE.
RIGHT, ANA?
...YEAH.


SHIFT

ヒロ
はぁ？
ハッ
ドサッ

...!
CHNK
OH, YOU REACTED FASTER THAN I EXPECTED.
CHAF
WHOP
IF THIS IS A PRANK, PLEASE CONSIDER HOW LATE IT IS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, ANA?

A PRANK...?
FWM
WHAP
KUH!
WHOK
SHMM
SHMM

GRIND
I WANT YOU,
ROKURO UNNO.
WHOCK
HYNN
PUSH
IT CAN'T BE...
SWAY
IT...

MINE, ALL MINE.
STAND
SHE'S... AFTER MY RIGHT EYE!!
WHA...!

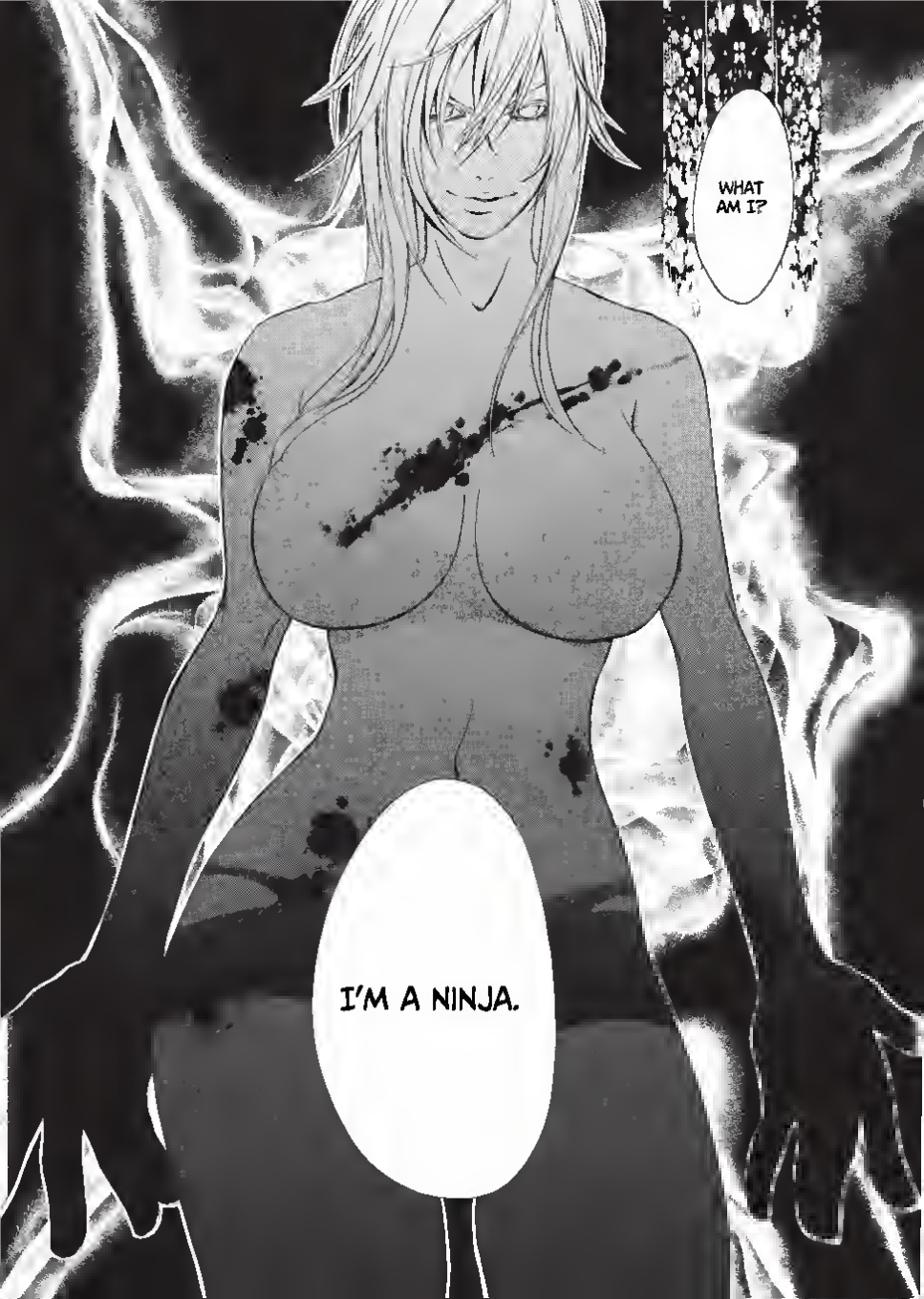
WHOMP
KUH!
SHAP!
WHIP
TUMBLE
...!
SHNK
WHAM
CHIK
I TOLD YOU! BECAUSE I WANT IT.
THAT EYE THAT REMEMBERS EVERYTHING.
HAH!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!
WHY MY EYE...?!

STRAIN
KUHH...!
THNK
NNNN
SHFT
DON'T TRY TO RESIST ME.
HAA!
HAA!
THERE, NOW YOU CAN'T MOVE.
I WON'T MAKE IT PAINFUL.
CHFT
...I WON'T LET YOU.
TOUCH

SHFF
LUNGE
...!!

I'D SOONER LOSE IT.
IF IT'S GOING TO BE TAKEN ANYWAY,
WHACK
DAMN IT!!
SHAP
ROKURO!!
THNK
THNK
THNK
HYNN

...HUH?
WHAT THIS?
HAA
HAA
WHAT...
ARE YOU?!
SHLLK
FLING


WHAT AM I?
I'M A NINJA.

ACT.33 TEN PRINCIPLES / TEN SPIRITS

SA...
SUKE...
KUH!
FLAP
FLAP
KREEE
SHAA
...!!

KREE!
FLING
GET AWAY FROM ME!!
SHIFT
SHAK
...!!

WHOCK!!
...!!
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
THIS VIOLENCE.
IF YOU GET IN MY WAY,
I'LL KILL YOU.
SHE SERIOUS!!

HAHH
HAHH
I'M NOT INTO MEN SNEAKING INTO MY ROOM AT NIGHT.
TAK
...HELL.

OLD MAN!
SPEAK UP SOONER IF YOU NOTICE ME,
THEN WHAT IS IT?
HMM?
HYAAA
WHAT'S UP, SAIZO? ARE YOU HERE TO SHARE MY BED?
OVER YOUR DEAD BODY.
...
THE NUMBER OF FINGERS ON YOUR HANDS...

WHAT THE HELL'S "TEN BRAVES" SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
...
IT'S A PAIN THE WAY YOU USUALLY DANCE AROUND TOPICS.
LET'S TALK ONE-ON-ONE.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU WHEN WE FIRST MET?
THEY'RE STRONG WARRIORS WHO'VE CAUGHT MY EYE.
THAT'S JUST A COVER STORY.
AND... I CAN WIN THE REALM WITH TEN OF THEM.
KEEP DREAMIN' THERE.
YOU'D NEED MORE OF US!!
...COME ON, OLD MAN.

I GUESS IT'S BETTER OFF...
FOR IT TO JUST BE YOU.
HUH?
THUMP!
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
A PAIN?
COME, HAVE A SEAT.
EXPLAINING IT'S A BIT OF A PAIN.

FWIP
HERE.
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU WRITING?
THIS.
...
IT'S JUST A YIN YANG SYMBOL...
THAT'S NOT SO UNUSUAL...
BUT...
WHAT'RE THESE CIRCLES AROUND IT? I'VE NEVER SEEN THOSE.
THIS DRAWING, SEE... IT SHOWS THE TEN PRINCIPLES THAT MAKE UP ALL THINGS IN NATURE.

HERE'S HOW IT'S WRITTEN IN THE SECRET RECORDS OF THE SANADA CLAN...
EARTH. METAL. LIGHTNING. FIRE.
AT THE CENTER, LIGHT AND DARKNESS...
IT'S WRITTEN THAT ONES WHO STRONGLY INHERIT THE POWER OF THESE TEN RINCIPLES WILL BE BORN INTO THIS WORLD, AND BECOME A FORCE THAT CHANGES THE WORLD.
WIND. ICE. WATER. GRASS.
HUH?
PISSED
EXCUSE ME?! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED!
AND WHICH SECRET RECORD DO YOU MEAN?
THAT ONE FROM BEFORE?
FINE! WE'RE DONE.
GET LOST, YOU.
AHH!! SORRY. I AM LISTENING!

THOSE ONES WE SAW UNDER-GROUND?
MHMM!
WHAT DID THAT WRITING REALLY SAY?
NO.
THAT ONE WAS JUST TO DECIPHER THE IZUMO WRITINGS.
SSH
LIAR.
HHHF
I FORGET.
ROKURO REMEMBERS IT ALL.
I DON'T RETAIN EVERY LITTLE DETAIL.
OH, RIGHT! WHAT THE HELL'S HIS DEAL?!
THAT EYE OF HIS SUCKED OUT MY MEMO-RIES...

ROKURO IS "WATER."
LIKE A REFLECTION ON THE WATER'S SURFACE, HE REMEMBERS EVERYTHING HE SEES.
HE'S FROM A RESOURCEFUL FAMILY THAT'S SERVED THE SANADA CLAN FOR GENERATIONS.
IF ROKURO'S WATER...
DOES THAT MAKE ANA ICE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
"ICE"—ANASTASIA, WHO FREEZES EVERYTHING.
GRASS"—SASUKE, WHO MAKES THE FOREST HIS DOMAIN.

"WIND"— KAMANOSUKE.
"METAL"— JUZO, MASTER OF THE METAL GUN.
"LIGHTNING"— JINPACHI.
"FIRE"— BENMARU, WHO'S GOOD WITH GUN POWDER
"EARTH"— SEIKAI, WHO SHAKES THE GROUND.

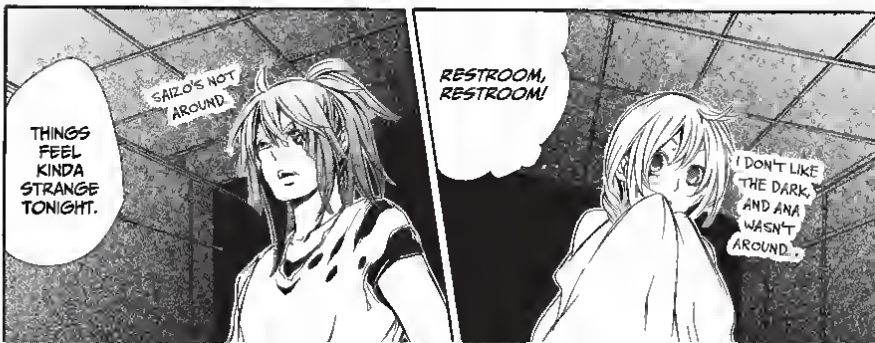
IT MAKES SENSE, WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT.
A SCARY AMOUNT OF SENSE...
WHAT AM I, THEN?
"DARK-NESS"?
NO... YOU'RE DIFFERENT.
DIFFERENT...? THERE'S NOTHING ELSE LEFT.
WHAT? YOU MEAN I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT OUT OF THE TEN...?
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY MIND...
FLIT
THMP
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT HERE!

SAIZO, YOU'RE "LIGHT."
PFFT!
WAHAHAHA! THERE'S NO WAY!
BUHAH
THAT DOESN'T FIT!
SO, WHAT?
THEN "DARK-NESS" HAS TO BE...

IT'S ISANAMI.

NO... WAIT, THAT'S...
YOU'VE SEEN IT TOO, THAT POWER OF ISANAMI'S...
TH-THAT'S THAT HAIRPIN'S POWER.
SHE WAS A SHRINE MAIDEN!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE KUSHIMITAMA.
THAT FITS EVEN LESS!
I DON'T GET IT!! SHOW ME THOSE SECRET RECORDS!!
THEY'RE GONE. I BURNED THEM.
HUH?!
LOTS OF PEOPLE WANT TO STEAL RECORDS.
WE COPIED ALL THEIR CONTENTS INTO ROKURO'S EYE.

ROKURO, HUH...?
SHM
WHAP
SHMM
SHFF
SOME-THING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT..
WHAT'S WRONG?
HEY... SAIZO!


SAIZO'S NOT AROUND.
THINGS FEEL KINDA STRANGE TONIGHT.
RESTROOM, RESTROOM!
I DON'T LIKE THE DARK, AND ANA WASN'T AROUND.

ABRUPT
...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
BLEH
IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SAY, EVERY TIME?
BITCH!
IT'S TO SAIZO'S AGAIN, ISN'T IT?!
I WON'T STAND FOR THAT!!
WRONG, STUPID.
YOU GET BACK HERE!!

HAA... HAHH...
HAHH...
JUST GIVE UP, AND HAND OVER ROKURO.
CHIK
WHY... ROKURO...?!
THERE'S NO "WHY" IN THE NINJA BUSINESS!

FWMM
ASHO
SPIN
HIT
FWOSH
THPP

!!
CHING
KUH!!
CHING
FOG?!
?!
OHHH
AHHH

*LITERALLY MEANS "FROZEN BURIAL."

...!
NOW YOU CAN'T ESCAPE.
KRIKT
I'LL FREEZE YOU TO THE CORE.
UNH... KUH...!
NO MOVE!!
KRAKT
KRAKT
KRAKT
GUARD ROKURO!!
ROWL!

HRRRN
YOU'RE TOO NAIVE TO UNDERSTAND THE MIND OF A...
OHHHH
CHKT
UGH!
...AH!
TRUE NINJA, SASUKE.
I DID TAKE A LIKING TO YOU,
SO IT'S REALLY TOO BAD.

CHNK
CHNK
CHNK
FWOM
YOU NOTICED ALREADY?!
TCH!
CHFT
SHFF
...!! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
...WHAT'S EVERY-ONE DOING?

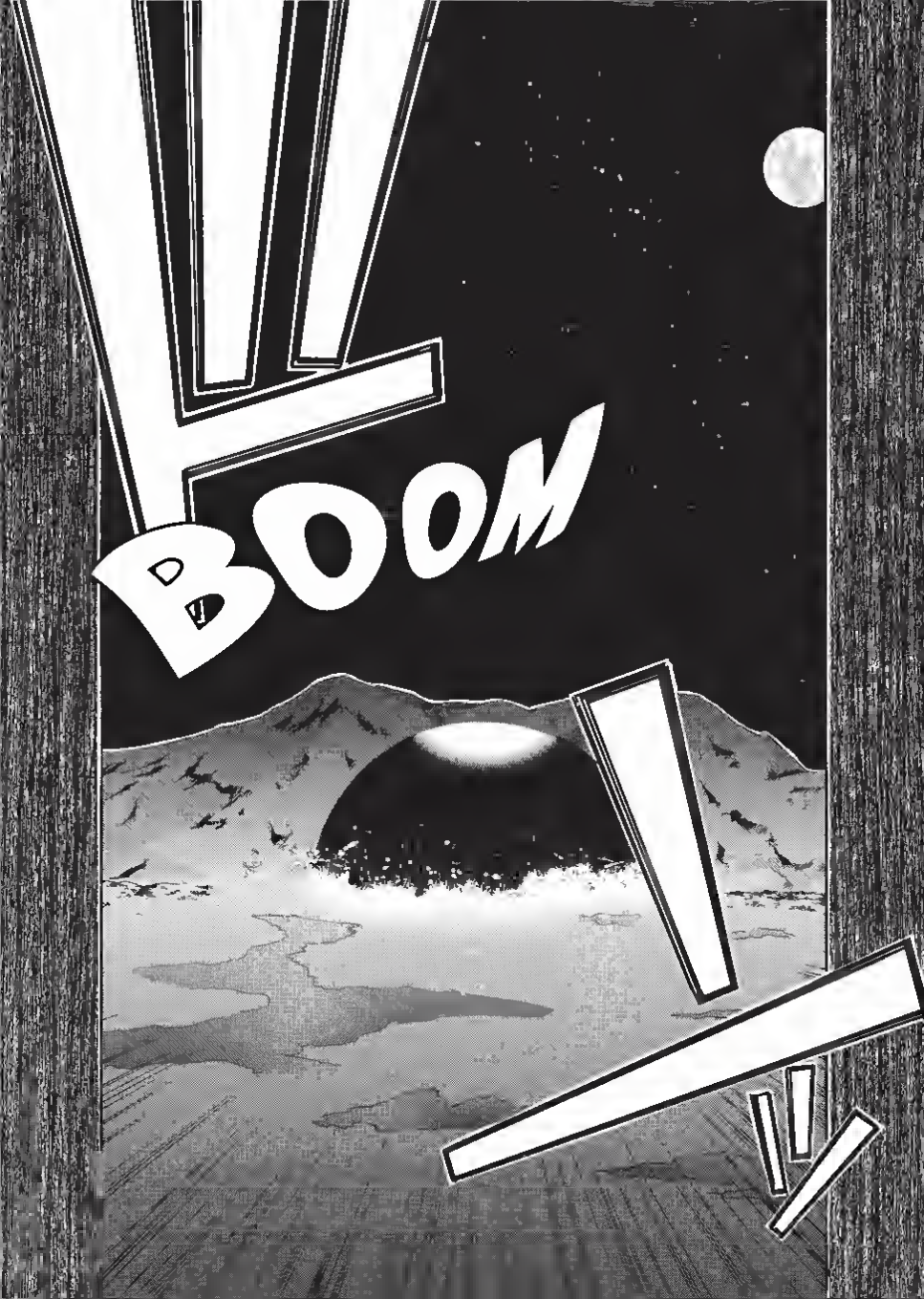
ARE YOU FIGHT-ING?
GUYS... WHAT'S WRONG?

...THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A "HOME,"
FRIENDS?
FAMILY?
ISANAMI.
THOSE THINGS YOU RELY ON...
SHUN
THEY'RE ALL DELUSIONS.
PACHING
WHP

IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED.
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO THE WORLD.
CHOOM!
NO...
AH...!
SASUKEEE!!

KRASH!
ZHOMM
WHAT FOR...?
WH-WHY...?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
...!
AH!
UGH!
PWIT

OMG


BOOM

ACT:34 COLD-HEARTED PURSUIT // ICE CRUSHER

...HAA!
SHHHH
OHHHHH
KRRH
KRRH
HAA!
HAHH...
OHN

...HAHH!
VVV
VVVVG
HAH...!
ROKURO!!
KRRRSH
GRRRRN
UGH!
ERGHH!
WHUMK
BLORP

UGH!!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
IGH!
HIK...!
HIK
IGH
WHY, ANAAAA...?
IF ROKURO NOT PROTECT ME...
...

I... SWALLOWED BY DARK-NESS...
HAA...
HAHH!
SHA
SHA
SHA
SHA

SH-SHMM
SHA
SHA
SHA
I'M PRETTY FAR AWAY NOW.

WHY DON'T YOU EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS ABOUT—
!!
—ANA?
HAVE YOU FALLEN SO FAR THAT YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION,
SAIZO?

LEAP
THOK
REACH
SHOM

PUSH
YOU'RE—
COUNTERIN-TELLIGENCE (A DOUBLE AGENT), AREN'T YOU?
GRIN

SPRING
CHFF
ANA... FROM DAY ONE, I NEVER HAD ANY DOUBT THAT YOU WERE ONE OF US.
YOU ONLY JUST REALIZED?
THAT'S WAY BEYOND FOOLISH, SAIZO.
OH, ARE YOU ANGRY?
I'M SORRY.
AND YOU GOT ALONG WITH ALL OF US.
BUT NO, THAT'S EXACTLY HOW A NINJA DOES THINGS.
YEAH... I'M PISSED OFF...
HEE
HEE

PISSED AT HOW BLIND I WAS.
YOU WERE A NINJA THE ENTIRE TIME.
THE ENTIRE TIME...
RESENT? I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY.
YOU'RE B RKING UP THE WRONG TREE, IF YOU RESENT ME.

YOU DID YOUR JOB...
...
THAT'S ALL.
CLANG
I'M GOING TO DO MY JOB, TOO.

ZHOOM
AS A NINJA.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO IF YOU JUST WALK AWAY.
I'M NOT LETTING YOU OUT OF HERE ALIVE.
YOU DON'T GET TO KEEP A SINGLE PIECE OF SANADA INFORMATION.
MY, MY.
THAT'S A LOVELY PICK-UP LINE.

...HAH!
HAHH!
HAA...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? CAN YOU MOVE, SASUKE?
...I FINE.
...
TAK
NOD
I CAME TO SEE WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
THIS... WAS ISANAMI'S DOING?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HEY JUZO! THIS GUY'S IN TROUBLE.
HIC
HIC
EH!
WEH!
HIK... UGH!
I'M HERE FOR YOU.
YOU MUSTN'T CRY.
WHAT'S WRONG, ISANAMI?

IT'S... ROKURO!
TWITCH
TWITCH
WH-WHAT THE...?!
STAGGER
*KUNAI POISON... INSIDE HIM...!
I GET ANTI-DOTE...!
*A NINJA THROWING KNIFE
FWUP
BUT SASUKE, YOU'RE IN BAD SHAPE...
WHERE'S SAIZO?!
WHAT'S HE DOING?!
HE'S BUSY CHASING A SCOUNDREL.

LORD YUKIMURA!
EVERYONE GO BACK INSIDE, FOR NOW.
SASUKE, HEAT SOME WATER. YOU NEED TO HURRY AND WARM UP.
NO! I CHASE. WITH SAIZO!
RIGHT NOW, YOU'D ONLY SLOW HIM DOWN.
JUST CALM DOWN, AND DO AS I SAY.
AGREE...

SHFF
HRN!
...
YOUNG.. MASTER...
I...
APOLO... GIZE...

DON'T.
"YOU CAN'T LET ANYONE GET AT THAT RIGHT EYE OF YOURS, ROKURO."
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE TO ME, DIDN'T YOU?

IT'S... HARD TO SAY I KEPT IT, BY LOSING IT.
CLUTCH
...YOU'RE SERIOUS TO A FAULT, YOU KNOW.
...YES.
I... APOLO-GIZE...

TOOM
SHMM
SHAP
CHOK
!!

KRAKT
...!!
GULP
THWIP
...!!
AH CRAP...!!
ZHOMM
BWOOM

KAHAH!
CAN'T BREATHE!!
...KUH!
TWIRL
...HAH!
AT THIS RATE, I'M—
HE'S FAST!! HE DOESN'T HESITATE LIKE SASUKE...
CHIFF
HAH!
...NINJA ART,
OHHHHH!

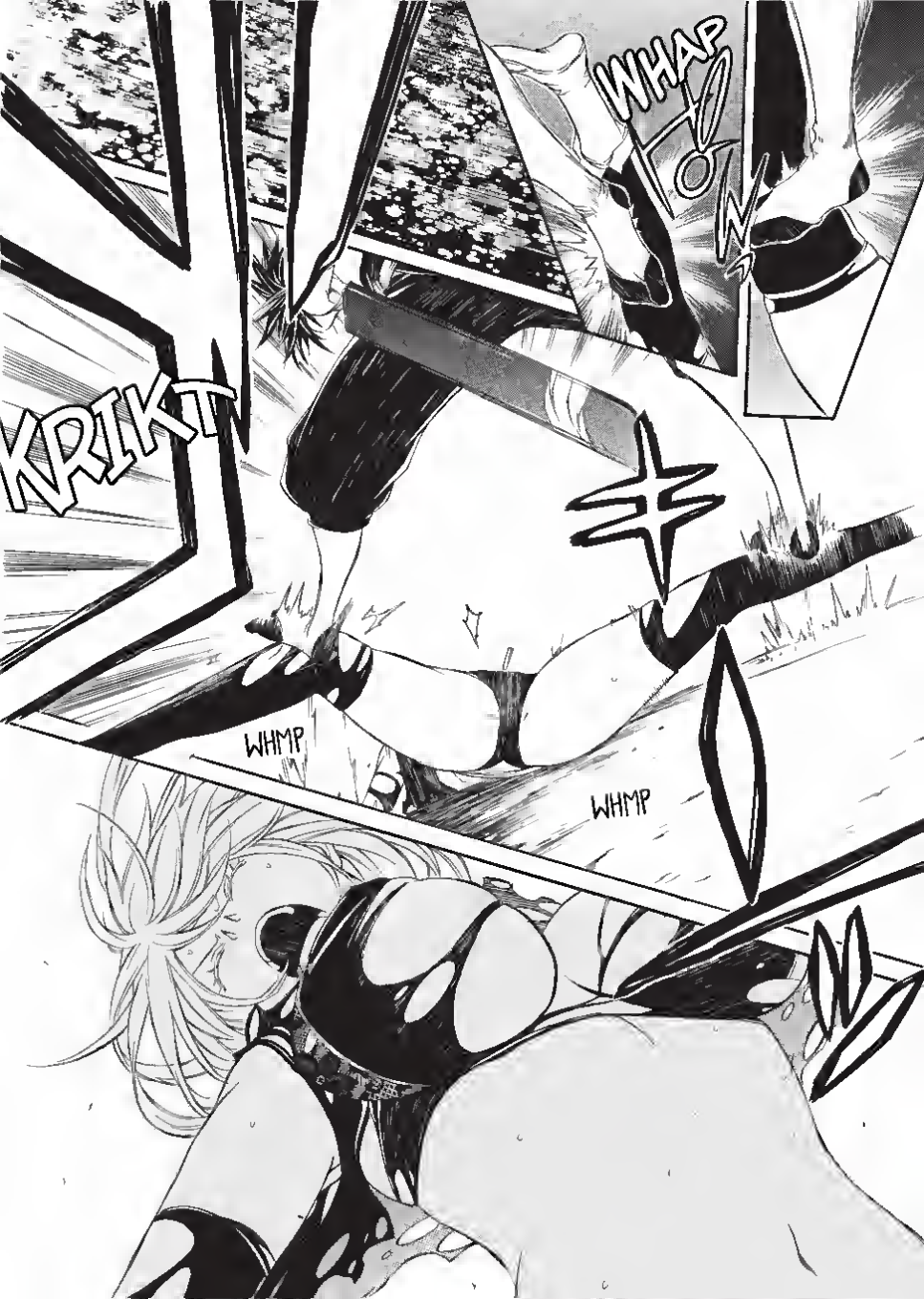
*MEANS "PEREGRINE FALCON DROP."

SHOM
IGA FOLLOWER FREEZING ART...
ZHAMM
STYLE NINJA ART—
KIRIGA-KURE—
FAHHN

*ZEKKAI—
SAIHYO-ZAN!!
WHONK
*MEANS "ICE-CRUSHING SLASH."

YOUR ICE ISN'T SCARY IF I SMASH IT BEFORE IT HARDENS.
I'VE KNOWN YOU LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT.
OH, REALLY.
...WHY'RE THEY SO OUT FOR BLOOD?!
WHNK

I COULDN'T JUMP INTO THAT!!
SAIZO AND BIG-BOOB ANA ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN USUAL!!
BATHUMP
BATHUMP
NOW, HOW ABOUT YOU TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY?
KRAK
KUH!
WHOCK
WHAT'S UP WITH THOSE TWO?!
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU KEEP STILL...
THUMP


WHAP
KRIKT
WHMP
WHMP

YOU'RE NOT GETTIN' AWAY, ANA.
FIRST, I WANT TO KNOW THE NAME OF YOUR EMPLOYER
...!
TWITCH
TWITCH
KUH!
PUSH
WHOAAA! THIS IS INTENSE!!
I HAVE PLENTY OF WAYS TO MAKE YOU TALK.

...NO.
NOT WHEN I'M THIS CLOSE.
CHANG!

THIS IS NEAR WHERE ANA AND I REUNITED...
...!!
BDOOOSH
THERE'S A RIVER!!
AS LONG AS THERE'S WATER, I CAN JUST KEEP ON MAKING ICE.
KCHHT
!!
CHOMM
YOU'RE TOO SOFT, SAIZO.

...TCH!
SHOMP
WHAM
SSSSST
SHIT...!

ACT.35 PROFOUND DARKNESS / THE GODDESS OF DARKNESS

"STAY WITH ISANAMI, BENMARU."
B-BUT...
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
...!!
SHE'S KINDA SCARY...!
YOU SAVED HIM, SAIZO.
I MANAGED TO EXTRACT THE POISON,
BUT...
HE'LL BE OKAY NOW,
BUT HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE FOR A WHILE.

HIS RIGHT EYE'S DONE FOR.
HE'LL NEVER SEE WITH IT AGAIN.
...I SEE.
TROMP TROMP
HEY!! GO BACK AND GET SOME SLEEP!!
YOU'RE GOING TO REOPEN YOUR WOUND, EVEN WITH THE STITCHES!!

SNAP
ROKURO HURT BADLY, MY RESPONSIBILITY!!
YOU'RE HURT BADLY, TOO!!
WHAT CAN YOU DO, IN YOUR CONDITION?!
BUT...
WHAM
HYNN
...!
...!!
WHAT GOOD'S RUNNING AROUND GOING TO DO AT THIS POINT? COOL YOUR HEAD,
STUPID.

KNOW...
VERY MUCH...
...!!
AS NINJA.
FAIL...
I... FALTERED.
ANA ENEMY...
ASHAMED...
HAHHH!

THAT WOULD APPLY TO ME, TOO...FOR LETTING ANA GET AWAY.
BUT YOU KNOW, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO MOPE AROUND!
WE DON'T KNOW WHO SHE'S WORKING FOR OR WHERE SHE TOOK HER INTEL,
AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE FOCUS!
...
I HARDLY HAVE A CLUE WHAT'S GOING ON,
BUT WHY WAS ROKURO THE TARGET?
WHAT WAS THAT EX-PLOSION?
I'D LIKE TO HEAR SOME DETAILS.

...YOU'RE RIGHT.
I HAVE TO TELL YOU.
BUT... WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU...
CAN'T BE TOLD TO ISANAMI.
EVER.

SIXTEEN YEARS AGO, SHE WAS ABANDONED AS A BABY BENEATH THE ARCHWAY AT IZUMO GRAND SHRINE.
THE CHIEF PRIEST SAW IT AS SOME KIND OF DESTINY, AND RAISED THE GIRL.
BUT THEN, STRANGE THINGS HAPPENED.
WHENEVER THE GIRL CRIED, DARKNESS WOULD CREEP ABOUT.
AS IF IT WAS RESPONDING TO HER
ONE NIGHT, WHEN THE GIRL CRIED, ONE OF THE SHRINE MAIDENS WENT MISSING.
IT WAS IF SHE WAS SWALLOWED BY THE DARKNESS.
THEY SEARCHED ALL AROUND THE GROUNDS FOR HER,
AND FOUND DARKNESS SEEPING FROM STONES NEAR THE ARCHWAY

THE CHIEF PRIEST WAS HORRIFIED.
LEGEND SAID THAT UNDERNEATH THAT SPOT WAS A STAIRWAY LEADING DOWN TO HADES.
WHEN THE GIRL CRIED, THE UNDERGROUND WOULD STIR...
SHE WAS SUMMONING THE DARKNESS.
THERE'S ONLY ONE BEING IN HEAVEN AND EARTH WHO CAN CALL THE DARKNESS UP THOSE STAIRS...

IZANAMI-NO-MIKOTO.
AND WHO DECLARED SHE WOULD TAKE THE LIVES OF A THOUSAND PEOPLE A DAY...
THE GODDESS OF SLAUGHTER WHO FEEDS ON NEGATIVE HUMAN EMOTIONS,

A–
ARE YOU SAYING THAT'S WHAT ISANAMI IS?!
NEVER MIND THAT, ALL THIS TALK ABOUT GODS IS UNBELIEV-ABLE!
ISANAMI CHEERFUL! KIND!
WHAT THE HELL?!
FEH!
WHETHER YOU BELIEVE IS YOUR PRE-ROGATIVE,
BUT SHE'S OBVIOUSLY USED THAT POWER MULTIPLE TIMES ALREADY.

THAT BLACK EXPLOSION IS DREADFUL...
TRUE...
LIINGE
MY SISTER IS THE SHRINE MAIDEN WHO GUARDS THE KUSHIMITAMA!!
SHE'S A MURDEROUS GODDESS...? IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!!
THAT...! ISANAMI'S...
IS THAT IT GATHERS UP AND PINS DOWN UNREST, THUS ACHIEVING PEACE...
THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE KUSHIMITAMA HAIRPIN...

YOU DON'T KNOW THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE KOSHIMITAMA!
IN OTHER WORDS, ISANAMI ISN'T PROTECTING THE KUSHIMITAMA.
SO THIS IS WHAT HE MEANT...
THE KUSHIMITAMA IS PROTECTING THIS WORLD FROM HER.

DOES THAT... HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH US?
YOU WERE SAYING HOW THE TEN OF US...
WOULD BE A FORCE THAT CHANGES THE WORLD...
...MHMM.

THOSE WHO INHERIT THE POWERS OF THE TEN PRINCIPLES HAVE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY.
TEN PRINCIPLES?!
YOU'RE LIGHTNING, NEZU.
THE MONKEY'S GRASS, KAKEI'S METAL, SEIKAI'S EARTH, AND THE KID'S FIRE, APPARENTLY.
...THE ABILITY WE EACH EXCEL IN, THEN.
SO WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ISANAMI AND THE KUSHI-MITAMA?

YOU BRAVES AND THE KUSHIMITAMA SUPPRESS THE POWER OF DARKNESS.
THE TEN PRINCIPLES HAVE THE EFFECT OF COUNTERBALANCING EACH OTHERS' EXCESS POWERS. NAMELY...
...I REMEMBER NOW.
...
IT'S NOT EASY TO ACCEPT, ALL AT ONCE...
"YOU MUST NEVER LET HER BECOME SAD..."
"DON'T ALLOW ISANAMI TO CRY..."
HMM?
THE CHIEF PRIEST TOLD ME SOMETHING WHEN I WAS YOUNG.

"HER SADNESS WILL SUMMON HADES..."
THERE'S SOME GREEDY PEOPLE WHO WERE BRAINLESS ENOUGH TO MAKE HER SAD FOR NO REASON.
THAT'S RIGHT. AND DESPITE THAT,
AND... OF ALL THINGS,
THEY USED THE ICE PRINCIPLE'S HEIR...
THEY WERE AFTER ROKURO'S EYE...

IT'S PROBABLY ONE OF THEM...
THEN... ANA'S MASTER, TOKUGAWA...? DATE?
THAT'S A NINJA FOR YOU, KAKEI!
BUT... THAT ANASTASIA WAS A COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE AGENT... IS JUST SO...
MHMM...
TRUE, BUT...
SNAP SNAP
SCREW THIS! YOU'RE ALL THROWIN' SOME KINDA PITY PARTY!!
WHAM

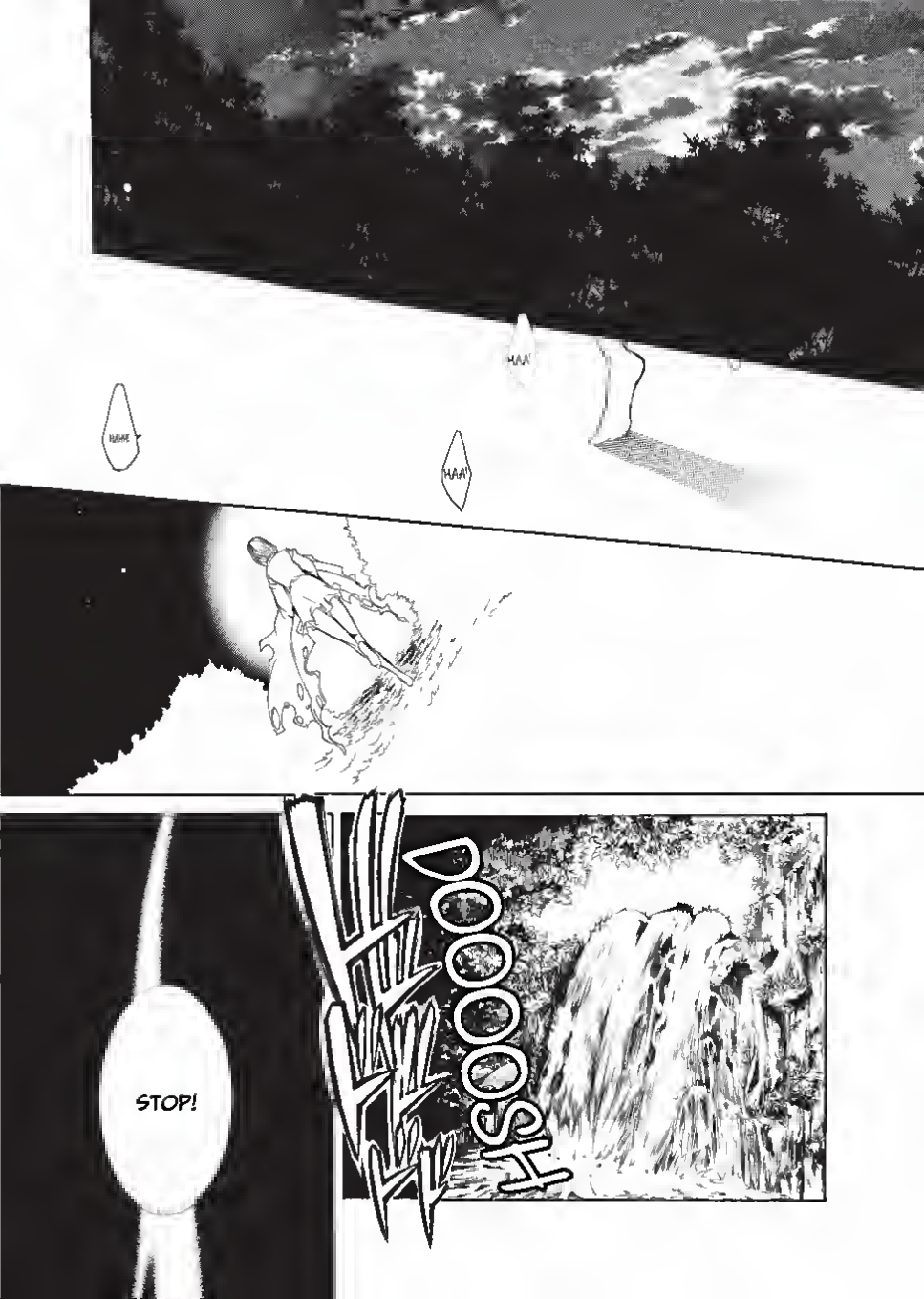
...
SO BOOBS BETRAYED US?! STUPID GIRL'S SOME KINDA GOD?!
NONE OF THAT SHIT MATTERS!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO FROM HERE?!
ISN'T THAT ALL THERE IS?!
AND DON'T TELL ME IT'S OUR DUTY OR OUR DESTINY TO GUARD THE BITCH!
KUSHIMITAMAS AND PRINCIPLES HAVE NOTHIN' TO DO WITH ME!!
GIMME A BREAK. THAT AIN'T ME!!
I'M GONNA DIE HAPPY, FIGHTIN' SAIZO!!
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!! THAT'S THE ONLY REASON!!
I'M HERE FOR MYSELF!!

"WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO...?!"
DON'T PRAISE ME, STUPID!!
THAT WAS A GREAT THING TO SAY, KAMANOSUKE! FOR YOU, ANYWAY.

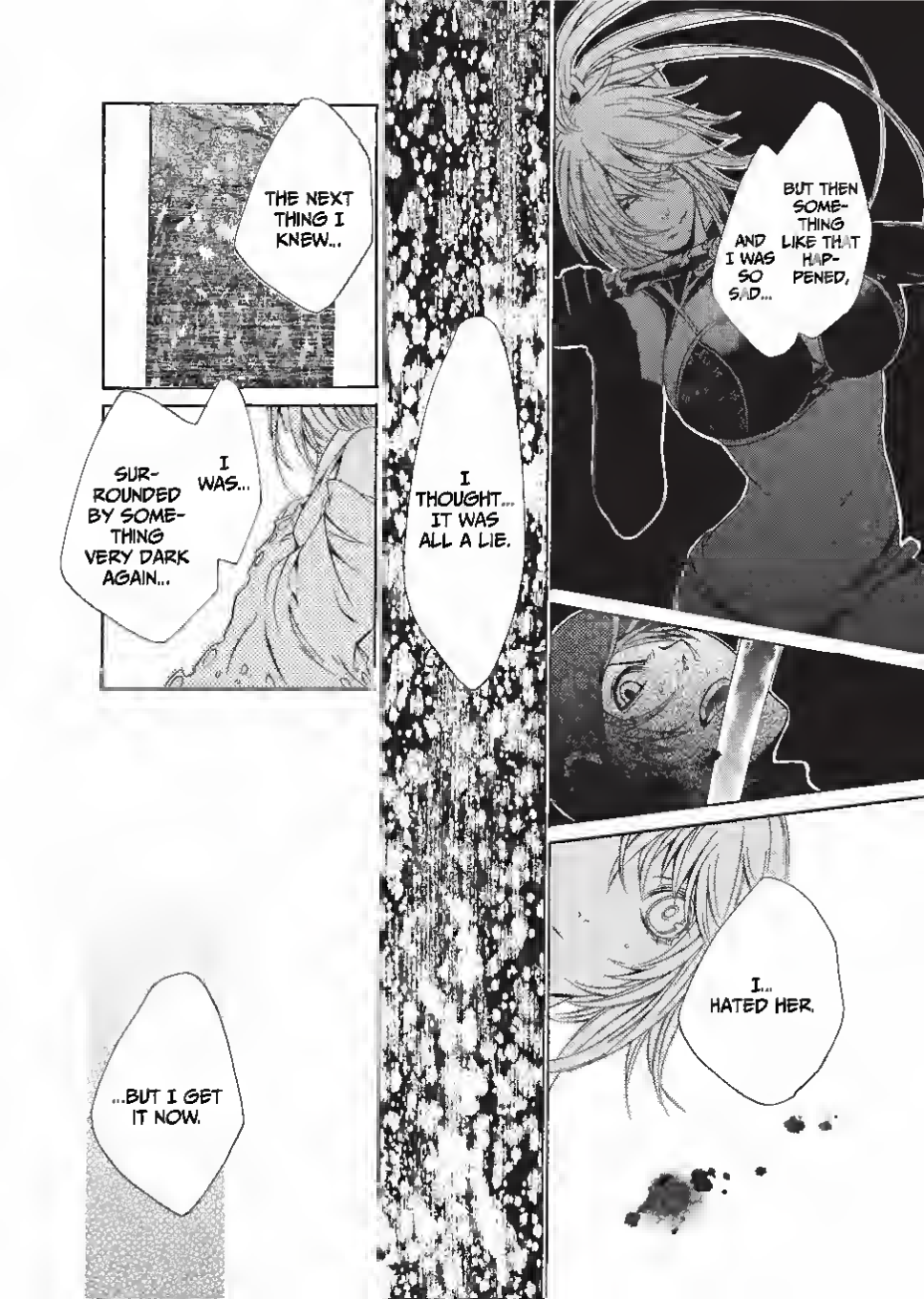
I...
WILL FOLLOW YOU, LORD YUKIMURA.
I CAME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE BECAUSE I FELT LIKE IT.
THINK I'LL KILL SOME MORE TIME BEFORE I TAKE OFF.
WANT TO PROTECT ISANAMI.
I WON'T LET HER BE SOME EVIL GOD!
BEN-MARU?!
SHAP!
ME, TOO!
MHMM.

...SORRY.
...
TMP
SHUDDER
OH NO!! SHE WAS LISTEN-ING!!
SAIZO!!
ME?!

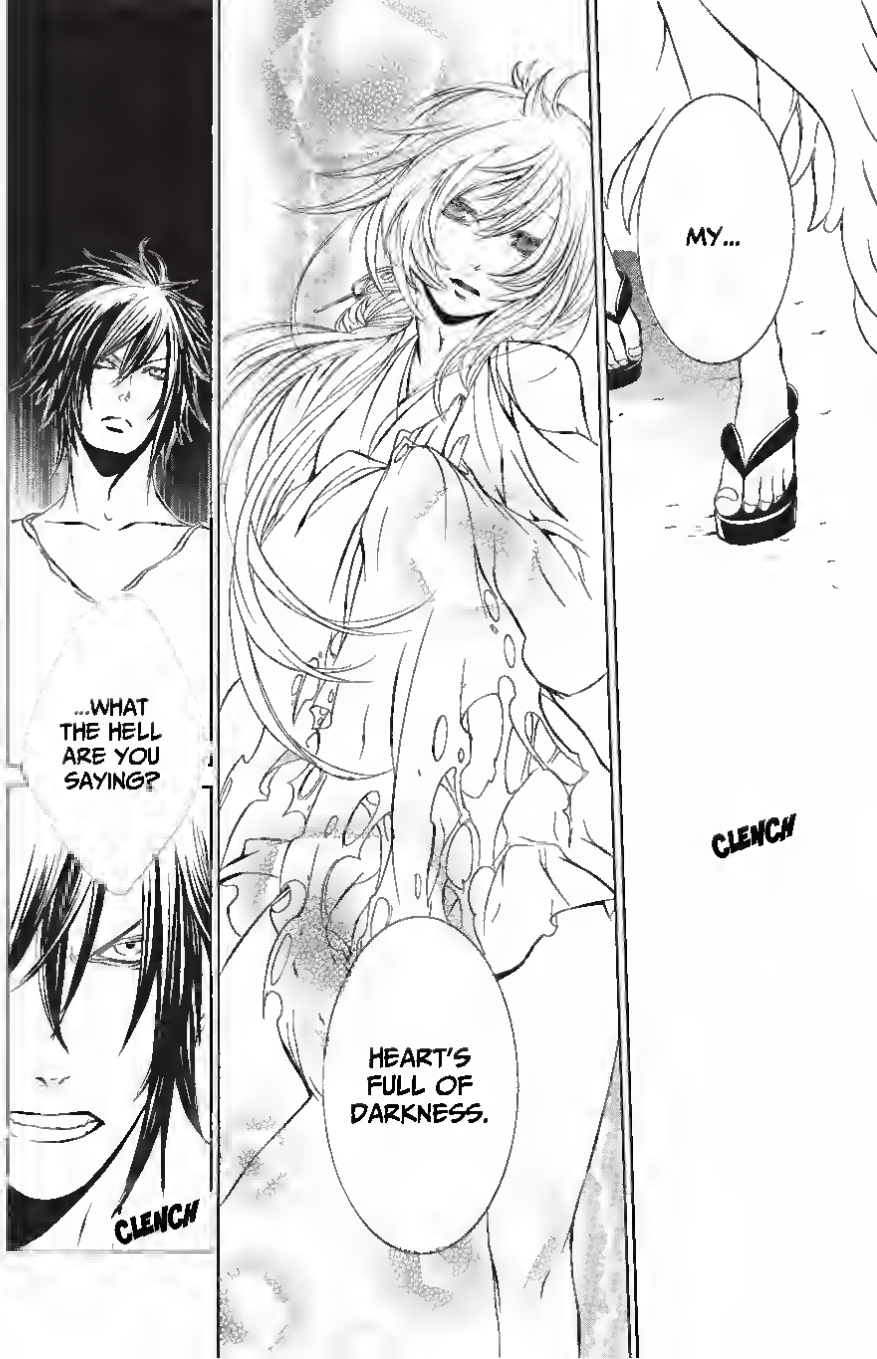
YOU'RE THE MAN ISANAMI RECOGNIZED AS THE LIGHT.
ONLY LIGHT ILLUMINATES THE DARK.
...TCH!


HAA!
HAA!
HAA!
STOP!
HEEE

LET'S GO HOME, ISANAMI!
YOU KNOW WHY...
I LIKED ANA SO MUCH...
IT MADE ME HAPPY.
IN OSHU, SHE TOLD ME TO FIGHT.
THAT I WAS A BRAVE.
IT SEEMED OKAY FOR ME TO BE HERE IN UEDA, AS A BRAVE.
ANA GAVE ME A PLACE TO BELONG.


THE NEXT THING I KNEW...
I WAS... SURROUNDED BY SOMETHING VERY DARK AGAIN...
I THOUGHT... IT WAS ALL A LIE.
BUT THEN SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED, AND I WAS SO SAD...
I... HATED HER.
...BUT I GET IT NOW.

I'M NOT ACTUALLY A PERSON
THAT'S WHY I HURT EVERYONE WITH THAT BLACK STUFF...
THAT'S WHY I HATED ANA THAT MUCH...


MY...
CLENCH
HEART'S FULL OF DARKNESS.
...WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING?
CLENCH

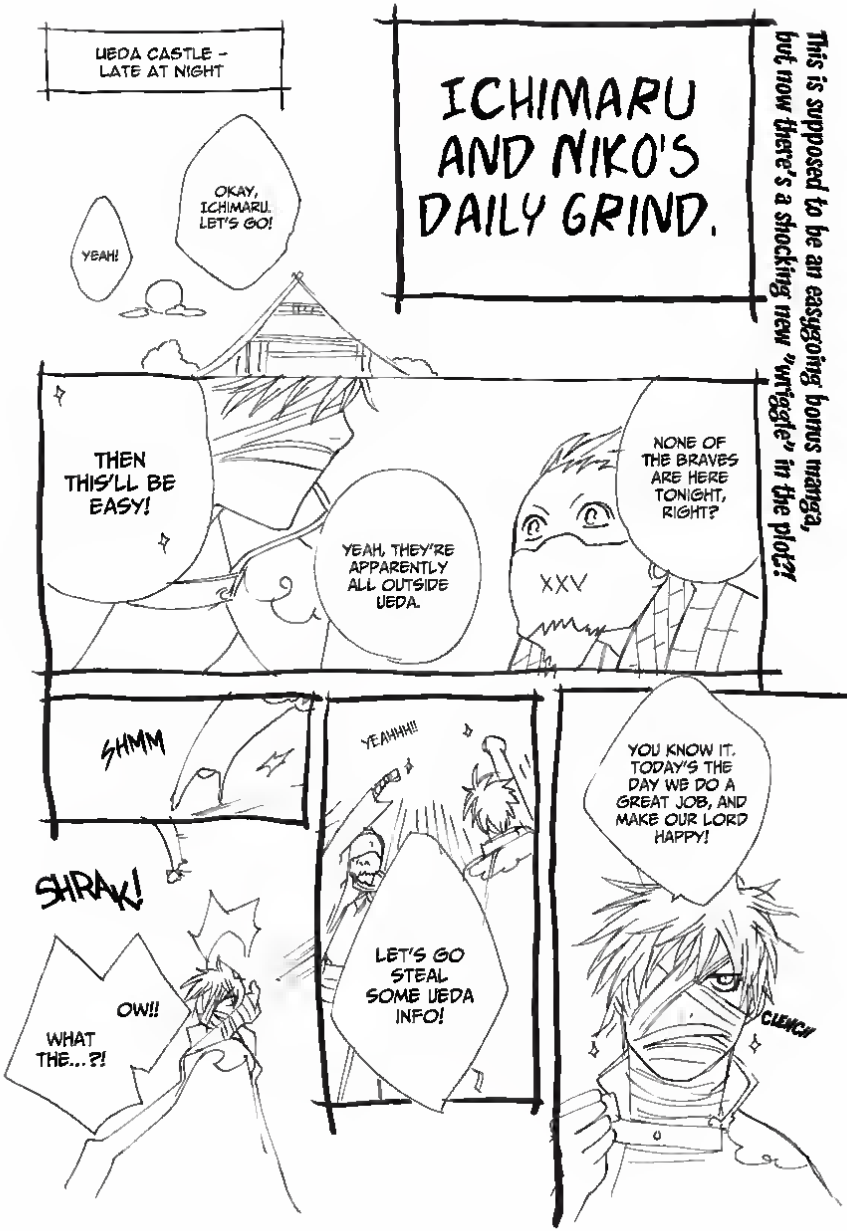
EVERYONE HAS DARKNESS IN THEIR HEARTS!!
FLINCH
OF COURSE IT IS!!
CLIP
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SPECIAL!!
BUT...
BUT I CAUSE TROUBLE FOR EVERYONE...

I GOT USED TO TROUBLE A LONG TIME AGO, SINCE BEFORE I MET YOU!!
DON'T GET ALL MEEK, ALL OF A SUDDEN!!
YOU'RE PUSHY AS HELL!
YOUR DELUSIONS AND WILD IDEAS ARE NUTS! STAY THAT WAY!!
DON'T TRY TO RUN AWAY NOW!!
WHAM!
THAT'S FINE!!
I...
I'VE...
HAD ENOUGH... MY HEART ACHES!

YOUR HEART ACHES—
BECAUSE YOU'RE HUMAN!!
YOU SAID YOU BELIEVE IN ME.
WAS THAT A LIE?!

UGH!
OH... OOH!!
UWAHHHHH!
DON'T CRY, SILLY GIRL...

VOLUME 6/THE END
To be continued in
Volume 7


UEDA CASTLE - LATE AT NIGHT
ICHIMARU AND NIKO'S DAILY GRIND.
This is supposed to be an easygoing bonus manga, but now there's a shocking new "wriggle" in the plot?!
OKAY, ICHIMARU. LET'S GO!
YEAH!
THEN THIS'LL BE EASY!
YEAH, THEY'RE APPARENTLY ALL OUTSIDE UEDA.
NONE OF THE BRAVES ARE HERE TONIGHT, RIGHT?
XXV
SHMM
SHRAK!
OW!!
WHAT THE...?!
YEAHHH!!
LET'S GO STEAL SOME UEDA INFO!
YOU KNOW IT. TODAY'S THE DAY WE DO A GREAT JOB, AND MAKE OUR LORD HAPPY!
CLENCH

WEASEL SENTAI WRIGGLE RANGER 5!!
WE'LL UPHOLD PEACE IN UEDA!!
WRIGGLE!
DA DAHHH
DADUM!
TCH TCH TCH
COME HERE, COME HERE!
ICHIMARU, HEY!!
FIVE WEA-SELS...
HUH?! WHAT'S THIS?!
SO CUUUUTE!!
NOW, LET'S FIGHT!
POKE
HE BIT A HOLE IN ME!!
A HOLE!!
CHOMP
AND IT'S DEEPER THAN I THOUGHT!!
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?!
THREATENING
HSSS HSSS
SPURT
AUGH-HHH!!
BRING IT ON!!
DOM DOM DOM DOM
WHAT, THIS KEEPS GOING ?!
TO BE CONTINUED

AFTERWORD

- HELLO. THIS IS KAIRI SHIMOTSUKI.
  FOLLOWING MY FIRST VOLUME 5 EVER, THIS IS MY FIRST EVER VOLUME 6. IT MAKES ME HAPPY, BUT IT'S LIKE MY OWN LACK OF EXPERIENCE ALSO MAKES MY HEAD HURT.

- UMM, THIS TIME ALL TEN ARE TOGETHER! IT'S FINALLY TEN BRAVES!!
  THE FINAL BRAVE WAS JINPACHI "DREADS" NEZU, BUT I UNDERSTAND SOMETHING NOW THAT I'VE REACHED THIS VOLUME:
  SAIZO LUMPS EVERY GUY OVER 30 TOGETHER INTO THE CATEGORY "OLD MAN."

- OH RIGHT, BEFORE THIS VOLUME CAME OUT, I PUT OUT WHAT AMOUNTS TO MY FIRST DOJINSHI. IT'S A BRAVE 10 OMNIBUS.
  I THINK YOU CAN STILL BUY IT AT TORANOANA, SO DON'T MISS OUT IF YOU'RE INTERESTED!!
  I DREW ABOUT ANA'S PAST AND WHATNOT IN IT, SO I THINK READING IT TOGETHER WITH THIS VOLUME MAKES THINGS EASIER TO UNDERSTAND. ENJOY.

WELL, MAY WE MEET AGAIN NEXT VOLUME!

- ONCE AGAIN, OBA-SENSEI TOOK TIME OUT OF A SUPER-BUSY SCHEDULE TO DRAW SOME FOUR-PANELERS FOR ME!
  I'M ALWAYS, ALWAYS TRULY THANKFUL YOU SPARE THE TIME FOR THAT.
  AS A READER, I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD A LOT TO THEM. (PRIVATE NOTE) MY LORD AND ME IS GOOD STUFF, TOO! SO EVERYONE PLEASE CHECK IT OUT!!

WELL THEN, WELL THEN!

2008. 5 XX

THANK YOU AS WELL TO SHUN KASUGA!

STAFF

SHINO TAKAOKA
MIZUYOSHI
TOKINON
THANK YOU ALWAYS.

BRAVE 10 6

Digital Manga Guild presents

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BRAVE 10 6

Stuck between a freezing lake and Masamune Date's army, Lord Yukimura and his band of Braves are rescued(?) by a ship full of pirates.

Back in Ueda there is an underhanded evil lurking about... What awaits this growing caravan?

When the long journey home seemingly comes to an end, Lord Yukimura finally sheds some light on his desire to collect as many Braves as he has fingers.

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